

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Final Office Action mailed August 20, 2009, has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14-19, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,460,141 to Olden (hereinafter "Olden"). Claims 1, 10, 16, and 19 are amended above. For at least the following reasons, applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and further examination.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 14-19 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated Olden. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections because Olden fails to teach all of the elements of the pending claims.

Claim 1 recites *inter alia*:

...
independently generating separate results of the member of rule by determining if one or more of the plurality of users are a member of a pre-existing group email distribution list; and
....

Olden does not teach or suggest at least the above noted features of claim 1.

As noted in previous responses, Olden teaches a security and access management system that provides unified access management. The system disclosed by Olden is described as unifying aspects of Web and non-Web security policies, including access control, authorization, authentication, auditing, data privacy, administration, and business rules. Olden describes the system as providing comprehensive security for a Web-enabled enterprise. Olden does not however teach or suggest at least the noted feature of claim 1.

The Final Office Action alleges that Olden teaches the noted feature of claim 1 when it generally describes user properties as including an e-mail address. *Final Office Action (8/20/09)*, pp. 11-12. The Final Office Action also cites to portions of Olden that describe creation of groups and realms. Specifically, with respect to user properties, the Final Office Action cites to column 47, lines 40-47, which states, in part:

User means a single user of Web applications protected by the security and access management system 10, using various user properties such as username, password, e-mail address, IP address, etc. Group means a collection of users, grouped together for ease of administration. Groups have specific properties. A realm is a collection of groups. A realm contains all of the users within the component groups of the realm. Entity means a user, group, or realm.

The portions cited above merely describes that a user may have a number of properties including an e-mail address. The cited portion makes no mention of an e-mail address being part of a “pre-existing group email distribution list,” as recited in claim 1. Simply stating that Olden provides for a user to have a number of properties including an e-mail address does not anticipate “independently generating separate results of the member of rule by determining if one or more of the plurality of users are a member *of a pre-existing group email distribution list*,” as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, the office action appears to rely on Olden’s description of creating groups and realms as somehow anticipating the above-noted feature of claim 1. Olden describes with respect to generating groups and realms:

The security and access management system 10 allows a security administrator to create an unlimited number of users, each with individual defining properties. The administrator can further collect users into groups and groups into realms. Additionally, users can be in multiple groups.

Olden, col. 13, lns. 27. This description in Olden merely indicates that an administrator can define users, groups, and realms. Indeed, the description in Olden appears to limit groups and realms as those created by administrators. This is in contrast to the noted feature of claim 1, which recites a “pre-existing group email distribution list.” For at least these reasons, Olden does not teach or suggest all of the features of claim 1. Claims 2-5 and 7-9 depend on allowable claim 1, and are also allowable for at least the same reasons.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Olden fails to teach all of the elements of independent claim 10. For example, Olden fails to teach or suggest at least the following with respect to claim 10:

...
*independently generate separate results for the member of rule that
determines if one or more users are within a pre-existing group email distribution
list;*
....

Accordingly, for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 1, Olden fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 10. Because claims 11, 14, and 15 depend on allowable claim 10, these claims are also allowable, and such action is respectfully requested.

Claim 16 recites *inter alia*:

...
*a member of rule that independently determines if a user is a member of
an organization structure stored in a pre-existing group mail distribution list;*
....

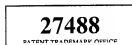
As noted above, Olden fails to teach the above noted features of claim 16. Accordingly, for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 1, Olden fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 16. Because claims 17-19, 22, and 23 depend on allowable claim 16, these claims are also allowable, and such action is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

This Amendment fully responds to the Final Office Action mailed on August 20, 2009. Still, that Final Office Action may contain arguments and rejections that are not directly addressed by this Amendment because they are rendered moot in light of the preceding arguments in favor of patentability. Hence, failure of this Amendment to directly address an argument raised in the Final Office Action should not be taken as an indication that the Applicant believes the argument has merit. Furthermore, the claims of the present application may include other elements, not discussed in this Amendment, which are not shown, taught, or otherwise suggested by the references of record. Accordingly, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability, which may be argued at a later time.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment with respect to this patent application to deposit account number 13-2725.

In light of the above remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attempt to resolve those issues.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(303) 357-1637

By: /René A. Pereyra/
René A. Pereyra, Esq., Reg. No. 45,800
Attorney for Applicant

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